

UNCLASSIFIED

E33

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ7676

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 CARACA 03827 01 OF 03 021850Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	DHS-00
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/014W

-----11771C 021851Z /38

O 021758Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8778  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 003827

NSC FOR LLORENS  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03827 01 OF 03 021850Z  
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2012  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, CASC, ASEC, OAS, VE  
SUBJECT: STRIKE ON; TALKS ON HOLD

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO, REASONS 1.5 (B) & (D)

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

1. (C) THE VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION'S DECEMBER 2 STRIKE,  
INTENDED TO FORCE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT CONCESSIONS ON  
ELECTIONS, BEGAN AT 0600 AS SCHEDULED. THE VENEZUELAN  
WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTV) ALREADY CLAIMED IT A SUCCESS BY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

MID-MORNING. IN RESPONSE TO THE STRIKE, THE GOV IS SPONSORING A "MARKET FAIR" ON AVENIDA BOLIVAR. THE STRIKE ORGANIZERS WILL EVALUATE THE SITUATION IN THE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 2 AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE. MEANWHILE, THE OAS-MEDIATED TALKS ARE ON HOLD

END SUMMARY.

B1

-----  
IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF STRIKE  
-----

2. (U) THE OPPOSITION-ORGANIZED STRIKE TO PRESSURE THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON ELECTIONS BEGAN AT 0600 DECEMBER 2. AS WAS THE CASE WITH PREVIOUS STRIKES, THIS ONE IS HAVING IMMEDIATE, VISIBLE ECONOMIC EFFECTS, SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPTING A WIDE RANGE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES. AS OF MIDDAY DECEMBER 2:

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 03827 01 OF 03 021850Z

-- INDUSTRY: CONINDUSTRIA (MANUFACTURING SECTOR ASSOCIATION) PRESIDENT LOPE MENDOZA SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO SURVEYS MADE BY HIS ORGANIZATION (ONE OF THE BIG BACKERS OF THE STRIKE), ADHERENCE IS HIGH. HE QUOTED FIGURES RANGING FROM 85 TO 100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN SECTORS RANGING FROM CHEMICALS AND CEMENT TO CERAMICS AND TOBACCO. HE NOTED THAT WHILE SOME AUTO PLANTS ARE OPERATING, THEY WILL HAVE TO SHUT DOWN IN A COUPLE OF DAYS FOR LACK OF PARTS SHOULD THE STRIKE CONTINUE. HE CITED 70 PERCENT ADHERENCE FROM GARMENT AND SHOE MANUFACTURERS (NOTE: THESE TEND TO BE SMALLER BUSINESSES, AND LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE STRIKE.) HE ALSO SAID THAT AT THE GOV PARA-STATAL ALUMINUM COMPLEX IN GUAYANA THERE IS 60 PERCENT PARTICIPATION.

-- GROUND TRANSPORT: IN CARACAS, THE METRO IS OPERATING, AND BUS SERVICE (PROVIDED BY A WIDE RANGE OF BUS COMPANIES AND COOPERATIVES) APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL. FEDECAMARAS PRESIDENT CARLOS FERNANDEZ SAID THAT WHILE 40-45 PERCENT OF BUSES IN CARACAS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE, 90 PERCENT OF INTER-URBAN BUSES ARE ON STRIKE, AS IS 85 PERCENT OF TRUCKING.

-- AIR TRANSPORTATION: OPERATIONS AT MAIQUETIA, CARACAS'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ARE NORMAL. U.S. CARRIERS UNITED, CONTINENTAL, AMERICAN, AND DELTA ARE ALL OPERATING ACCORDING TO THE NORMAL SCHEDULE. VENEZUELAN CARRIER AEROPOSTAL CONTINUES TO EVALUATE ITS OPERATION; THUS FAR, IT HAS CANCELED 80 PERCENT OF ITS DOMESTIC FLIGHTS FOR LACK OF PASSENGERS. AIRCRAFT COFFEE SHOPS AND NEWSSTANDS ARE OPEN,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

AND CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ARE AT WORK. THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 03827 01 OF 03 021850Z  
AIRPORT HIGHWAY (WHICH RUNS THROUGH A TRADITIONALLY  
PRO-CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD) IS CLEAR.

-- FINANCE: MOST BANKS, AND THE BANKING ASSOCIATION APPEAR  
TO BE CLOSED. (ACCORDING TO SERVICE SECTOR TRADE ASSOCIATION  
CONSECOMERCIO, THERE IS 75 PERCENT ADHERENCE TO THE STRIKE.)  
ATMS ARE WORKING. THE STOCK MARKET IS CLOSED. THE BOLIVAR  
SEEMS STABLE, TRADING CLOSE TO FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29'S CLOSE OF  
1320/DOLLAR.

-- PETROLEUM: 90 PERCENT OF STATE OIL CONCERN PDVSA'S  
ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES IN CARACAS HAVE NOT REPORTED TO WORK  
TODAY. 70 PERCENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES ARE ON STRIKE  
IN THE WEST (MARACAIBO) WHERE PDVSA CONTINGENCY PLANS HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO OPERATION. SOURCES REPORT THAT  
OPERATIONS ARE STILL NORMAL IN THE EAST IN THE PRODUCTION  
AREAS AROUND MATURIN AND AT THE JOSE REFINING COMPLEX. AT  
THE EL PALITO REFINERY, WEST OF CARACAS, THE NATIONAL GUARD  
DETAINED THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER THIS MORNING BUT HAS  
SINCE RELEASED HIM. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF THE DAY CREW AT  
EL PALITO DID NOT REPORT FOR DUTY. THIS IS REPORTEDLY ALSO  
THE CASE AT A NUMBER OF OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDING THE  
PARAGUANA AND BAJO GRANDE REFINERIES. OIL PORTS ARE  
FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.

-- FOOD DISTRIBUTION: ACCORDING TO THE BAKERIES ASSOCIATION,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ7677

PAGE 01 CARACA 03827 02 OF 03 021851Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOT-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	DHS-00
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/014W

-----117727 021851Z /38

O 021758Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8779  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 003827

NSC FOR LLORENS  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03827 02 OF 03 021851Z  
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2012  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, CASC, ASEC, OAS, VE  
SUBJECT: STRIKE ON; TALKS ON HOLD

MOST BAKERIES ARE CLOSED. THEY WILL OPEN IN THE AFTERNOONS,  
AS THEIR PRODUCTS ARE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL. APPROXIMATELY 95  
PERCENT OF SUPERMARKETS ARE CLOSED. IF THE STRIKE CONTINUES,  
SOME SUPERMARKETS MAY OPEN, ACCORDING TO A PRE-ARRANGED FOOD  
SUPPLY PLAN.

-----  
OPPOSITION'S EARLY ASSESSMENT  
-----

3. (C) SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN WORKERS  
CONFEDERATION (CTV) MANUEL COVA PRESENTED HIS FIRST REPORT TO  
THE PRESS JUST AFTER 1000, CLAIMING THE STRIKE A "TOTAL  
SUCCESS" DESPITE THE PRESSURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE  
CIVIL PROTEST. EARLIER, THE CTV STRATEGIC DIRECTOR CLAIMED  
THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE VENEZUELAN POPULATION HAS GONE ON  
STRIKE. [REDACTED]

B1

TOLD POLOFF DECEMBER 2 THAT MAJOR AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLY PLANTS,  
INCLUDING GM, WILL HAVE TO SHUT DOWN PRODUCTION DUE TO LACK  
OF PARTS. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF THAT THE GOV HAS EFFECTIVELY  
KEPT STATE-RUN INDUSTRIES OPERATING IN BOLIVAR STATE.

B1

[REDACTED] CLAIMED THE STRIKE ORGANIZERS WERE BEING CAUTIOUS  
ABOUT SHUTTING DOWN PDVSA BECAUSE THEY FEARED THE GOV MIGHT  
RETALIATE AGAINST WORKERS. HE REITERATED THAT THE STRIKE'S  
PURPOSE IS TO PRESSURE PRESIDENT CHAVEZ TO ACCEPT THE  
CONSULTATIVE REFERENDUM OR MAKE HIS OWN PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL  
ELECTIONS. IT IS NOT INTENDED AS "THE FINAL BATTLE." THE

B1

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 03827 02 OF 03 021851Z  
MAIN STRIKE ORGANIZERS - CTV AND FEDECAMARAS - WILL EVALUATE  
THE STRIKE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 2 AND DETERMINE  
WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF THE  
BUSINESS CONFEDERATION WAS PLEASED WITH THE NATIONAL STRIKE  
SO FAR AND WOULD PROBABLY EXTEND IT ANOTHER 24 HOURS. THE  
STRIKE TOMORROW MAY INCLUDE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER,  
[REDACTED] SAID FEDECAMARAS WILL RESIST HAVING THE STRIKE  
CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

B1

B1

-----  
GOV RESPONSE  
-----

4. (U) THE GOV HAS RESPONDED TO THE OPPOSITION'S STRIKE BY  
ORGANIZING A "MARKET FAIR" DOWNTOWN ALONG AVENIDA BOLIVAR.  
STREET VENDORS AND MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY ARE OUT IN  
NUMBERS. LABOR MINISTER MARIA CRISTINA IGLESIAS REPORTED TO  
THE GOV-RUN TELEVISION STATION THAT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THE  
STRIKE WOULD LAST. "THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE HAVE  
DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY WANT TO WORK," SHE SAID. CLAIMING  
THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE VENEZUELAN WORKERS ARE AT WORK  
DECEMBER 2, SHE SAID THAT THE OIL INDUSTRY, HOSPITALS,  
CLINICS, PHARMACIES, AND GAS STATIONS WERE ALL OPERATING.  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) PRESIDENT WILLIAN LARA AFFIRMED THAT  
THE NA WAS CARRYING OUT ITS NORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS,  
LIKE OTHER PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS, DESPITE THE OPPOSITION'S  
CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE. LARA TOLD REPORTERS THAT  
VENEZUELAN WORKERS DID NOT WANT STRIKES, BUT INSTEAD WORK,  
PEACE, AND HARMONY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

-----  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 03827 02 OF 03 021851Z  
GAVIRIA TALKS ON HOLD  
-----

5. (C) MEANWHILE, THE OAS-MEDIATED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOV  
AND THE OPPOSITION ARE ON HOLD. OAS SECRETARY GENERAL CESAR  
GAVIRIA REMAINS IN COUNTRY [REDACTED]

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ7678

PAGE 01 CARACA 03827 03 OF 03 021851Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	DHS-00
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/014W

-----117739 021851Z /38

O 021758Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8780  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 003827

NSC FOR LLORENS  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03827 03 OF 03 021851Z

UNCLASSIFIED

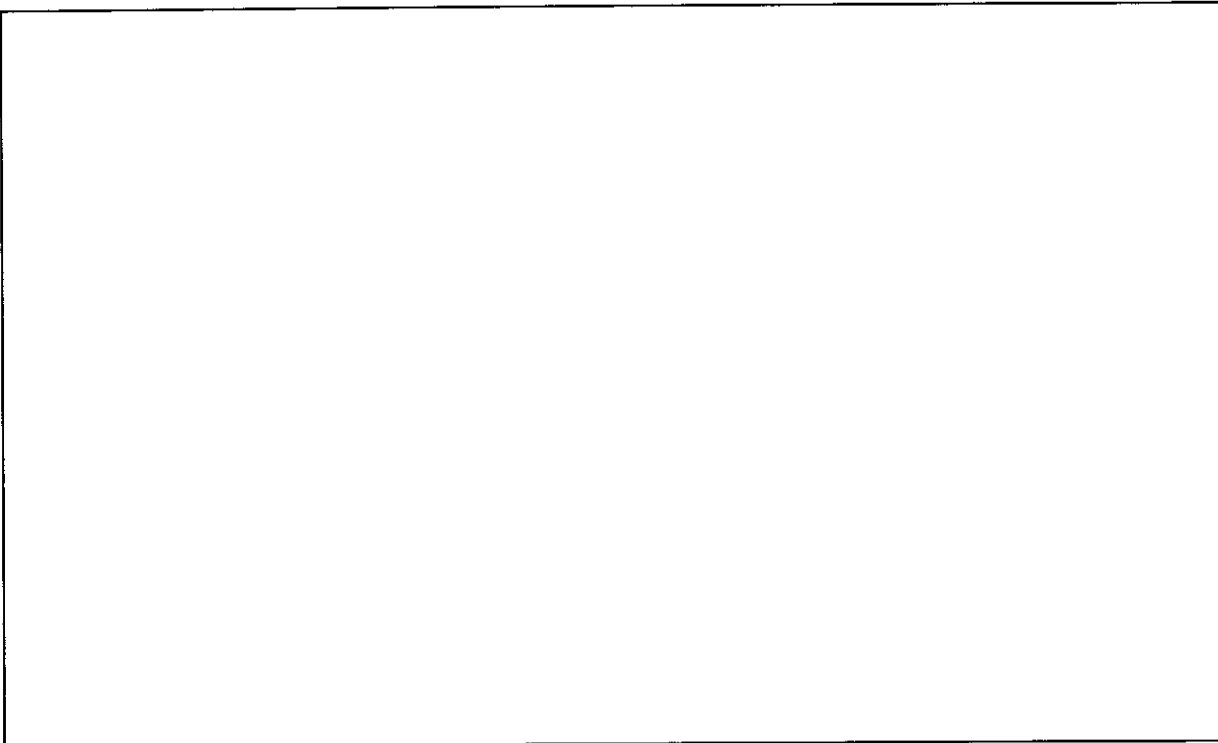
UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2012

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, CASC, ASEC, OAS, VE

SUBJECT: STRIKE ON; TALKS ON HOLD

B1



SHAPIRO

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

UNCLASSIFIED